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23 October 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

DEPT OF STATE review(s) completed.

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DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: Intensive jockeying for position in the projected new government has continued following Tuesday's promulgation of a provisional charter.

Differences within the High National Council over the choice of General Minh or council President Phan Khac Suu as chief of state reflect the competing ambitions of various aspirants for the premiership. Council Secretary General Tran Van Van, one such hopeful, has described the situation as "still delicate." He stated recently that General Khanh was still maneuvering to retain power, and he felt that the government might not be formed by 27 October after all. 7

Khanh's position is difficult to ascertain. He claimed yesterday that he had not been fully consulted on the charter and had not yet studied it in detail. Nevertheless, he told Ambassador Taylor that he was satisfied with the charter's general provisions, including the status of the armed forces. Khanh also indicated that he would be content with the position of armed forces commander, but seemed indifferent to who would fill other key jobs such as premier and defense minister.

Khanh's strange attitude suggests that he may expect the new government to be short-lived.

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<u>USSR</u>: The new Soviet leaders apparently intend to continue and expand an experiment involving liberalism in the operation of the economy.

A four-month-old experiment, which allowed considerable autonomy to two Soviet textile plants, will be enlarged to include "a number of enterprises in light industry." The USSR National Economic Council made this decision on 19-20 October despite earlier criticism by the Finance Ministry of results in the two pilot factories.

The experiment, which was partially derived from the published theses of Soviet Professor Liberman, was devised to make manufacturing plants responsible for the quality and final sale of their output rather than simply for producing a planned quantity which might not be accepted by consumers.

Earlier this year Khrushchev stated that 2.5-billion rubles worth of consumer goods had not been sold, primarily because of poor quality.

The crux of the experiment is that production is governed by contracts worked out between the plant and the retail outlets without any intermediary party or state authority.

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NOTES

Cuba-USSR: Cuba is taking a cautious attitude toward Khrushchev's ouster so as not to upset its re-25X1 lationship with Moscow, 25X1 Cuban leaders have not yet commented formally and the press has emphasized only the ''indestructability'' of Cuban-Soviet solidarity and the warm reception accorded President Dorticos during his recent visit in Moscow. Although the new leaders in Moscow have affirmed 25X1 continued strong support for Castro, he may still be wary of a Soviet effort to impose greater discipline on his regime.

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Cyprus: Final agreement has been reached to permit the rotation of part of Turkey's army contingent on Cyprus in return for transfer of the Kyrenia-Nicosia road from Turkish Cypriot to UN control. UN Commander Thimayya expects to face ''a Pandora's box'' of irritating troubles in exercising this control, however.

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Communist China: Peiping's largest contract thus far for 1965 wheat imports--1.5-million tons-has been concluded with Australia. China has already contracted for a total of 600,000 tons of grain for 1965 under long-term deals and further purchases are expected from Canada, Australia, and France. China purchased a record 6.4-million tons of Western grain this year and, according to a Chinese official, will be buying grain for some years.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 21 October 1964 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 4-64, "The Likelihood of Proliferation of BW and CW Capabilities to Nth

Countries"

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